

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## The Progressive Farmer.

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### THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK.

Address of President R. W. Scott at Opening of Farmers' State Convention, A. & M. College, Raleigh, N. C., August 1, 1904.

It is hardly necessary for me to say that I appreciate the honor of presiding at this convention of the farmers of North Carolina; and it gives me pleasure to say a few words on "The Agricultural Outlook."

Our first Farmers' State Convention was held at this place July 21, 1903. Hon. M. W. Ransom, who presided over that meeting, said that it might well be called the birthday of agricultural improvement in North Carolina. The interest manifested in that meeting, and the promise of a successful one at this time, would indicate that his prophecy was coming true.

#### IMPORTANCE OF THE CONVENTION.

Let us resolve first to make this annual meeting of the farmers permanent, and there is no better place to hold it than at the State capitol, and at this college which stands in close relation to the farmers, and is expected to lead in the movement for agricultural development. The farmers might well learn a lesson from the professional men, who meet annually, to discuss matters connected with their professions, and find it both pleasant and profitable.

Since eighty-two per cent of our people live in the country, and the other eighteen are interested in the success of the farmer it is highly important that these meetings be held, in order to discuss the best ways and means of advancing agriculture in the State.

We may read the best agricultural papers, but there is nothing so helpful and stimulating as coming together and giving our own experience, and hearing subjects relating to our business discussed by experts.

The Agricultural Outlook is bright, but if we hope to keep North Carolina abreast of her sister States, we should get out of the old ruts, read, and see what other people are doing, and take advantage of their experience.

#### CHANGED RURAL CONDITIONS

For the past century many of our most enterprising young men have left North Carolina for the West; we also lost a great many in the Civil War. This brought about a changed condition of farming, and since the war the towns and cities have been a constant drain of the best people from the farms.

We trust that like conditions will no longer exist, and we can now turn our attention to the development of the country.

I believe that North Carolina offers greater inducements to young men of limited means to own a farm, than any of the other States. It is impossible for him to buy the high-priced lands of the West. Even the improved farms of our own

State are beyond his means, but he can buy a run-down farm at a low figure, and develop it himself, and this chance will not always be his. If our own people do not seize this opportunity, others will.

Our State is already making giant strides both in manufactures and agriculture. I quote from The Progressive Farmer of July 12, from an article headed "North Carolina the Most Progressive State in the South:" "In relative rank among the States, in population, agriculture, and manufacturing North Carolina made a greater gain in the census decade 1890 than any old State in the Union, and greater than any State or Territory, new or old, excepting only the newly settled areas of Montana and Oklahoma."

#### THE KIND OF FARMING WE NEED.

How often we hear it said that the farmers cannot compete with the great West and Southwest in the production of cotton, corn, wheat, fruits, etc. It is well for us in the very beginning of our effort to build up agriculture in our State to find out if this is true, and to consider (1) what kind of farming our State is best adapted to, and along what lines we ought to work, and (2) what are the reasons for present deficiencies, what is the remedy, and how to apply it. I wish as briefly as possible to speak of our advantages, and to give my views as to the remedy.

There is no State in the Union that has a greater variety of soil, or that produces a greater variety of crops. The soil, climate and crops are such that, were a high wall placed around our State, we could produce everything necessary for the support of mankind. We have—because we could buy cheap from the West—grown into the habit of depending upon it too much.

Situated midway between the North and South, between the mountains and the ocean, we have a most desirable climate. We do not suffer with extreme heat or cold. Unlike our sister States south, we have one or two good snows during the winter, that brace us up, and make the children happy—give the boys a chance to hunt rabbits, and last just long enough to make the older people feel thankful that they do not live further north where snow and ice are on the ground a larger part of the winter.

We have just enough hot days and nights to make us thankful that we live no further south. We have a climate that will permit us to work out of doors ten months in the year.

#### RESOURCES OF EAST AND WEST

The western part of our State is rapidly becoming a noted summer resort, and furnishes a market for beef and mutton, and the finest of apples grow there. In the Piedmont section, we find a market from the cotton mills almost at the door of every farmer, for his surplus.

It is the ideal section for small farms, dairying, fruit growing, and the finest tobacco in the world is raised there. In the east cotton, corn, peanuts and peas grow in abundance; trucking and raising small fruits has become a great industry. Think of over a million dollars worth of strawberries being sold in one season. Improved

railroad facilities places this section at the very doors of the Northern markets.

What great opportunities are now before us! About twenty years ago, it was my good fortune to spend some time upon a stock and dairy farm in Orange County, N. Y.

I attended the farmers' institutes held there, and seeing the difficulties the farmers there labored under, I came to the conclusion that, if they could succeed, we could too, and make money. After twenty years experience on the farm I am confirmed in this opinion.

#### WHAT NORTH CAROLINA CAN DO

I was surprised to learn that North Carolina produced as much cotton per acre as Texas, the only difference being that Texas soil required no fertilizer. This being so, what North Carolina cotton farmer would exchange his farm for one in Texas?

It was North Carolina raised wheat that took the prize at the Chicago World's Fair—wheat raised on the farm of Governor Holt. The wheat average in North Carolina is so low I am ashamed of it, but in the wheat section, where proper attention has been given to seed, preparation, etc., the average is better than in the best wheat counties of Kansas, the low average yield in North Carolina being due to improper preparation of the soil, and sowing land to wheat that is not adapted to it.

Our sister State, South Carolina, made the largest yield of corn ever made in the United States.

It is more proper to ask if the West can compete with us.

With small towns dotted all over the State the farmer can sell direct to the consumer, and (admit there is a smaller yield per acre) make more than the Western farmer, because their produce passes through so many hands before reaching the consumer.

#### NORTH CAROLINA VS IOWA.

Mr. Walter Page, in his address, at the A. & M. College commencement a year ago, compared the State of North Carolina to Iowa, and said that the North Carolina farmer only produced one-seventh of what the Iowa farmer did. I suppose his figure and comparisons are correct.

I feel sure it is not because Iowa is a better State for farming, and I am not willing to admit

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